

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/086,604

Examiner

Eleni A. Shiferaw

Applicant(s)

BAKKE, STEVE

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/03/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10, 12-17, 19-22, and 24-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

CHRISTOPHER REVAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Cel 4/13/06

DETAILED ACTION

1. Pre-Appeal brief request for review, under CFR 41.37, has been filed. Claims 1-26 have been examined. Examiners amendment has been made for all independent claims 1, 8, 14, 20, and 26, and dependent claims 11, 18, and 23 have been canceled based on the telephone interview, with Steve McDonald on March 10, 2006.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steve McDonald on March 10, 2006.

Examiner initiated interview has been made with Steve McDonald to incorporate allowable features, "VOICE firewall providing authentication and the authentication being a challenge response authentication", into the claims, as applicant disclosure describes on paragraph 0046, and Steve McDonald agreed to the changes.

3. Examiner amends claims 1, 8, 14, 20, and 26, and cancels claims 11, 18, and 23.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communication between a provider endpoint at a provider location and a user endpoint at a user location behind a data firewall, the method comprising the steps of;

receiving, by a voice firewall, a connection signal from a soft switch at the provider location, wherein a data portion of the connection signal includes a private connection address associated with the provider endpoint, wherein the voice firewall provides authentication for the user endpoint and said soft switch provides a challenge-response mechanism and maintains a command session with the user endpoint when the user endpoint is authenticated by the voice firewall, and wherein the user endpoint comprises a voice over Internet Protocol device;

modifying the data portion of the connection signal by substituting a public connection address of the voice firewall for the private connection address; and

sending the modified connection signal to the user endpoint.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of providing connection between a provider endpoint at a provider location and a user endpoint at a user location behind a data firewall, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, by a voice firewall, a connection signal from a soft switch at the provider location, wherein a data portion of the connection signal includes a private connection address associated with the provider endpoint, wherein the soft switch provides a challenge-response authentication and maintains a command session with the user endpoint when the user endpoint is authenticated;

storing, by the voice firewall, the private connection address;

modifying, by the voice firewall, the connection signal by substituting a public connection address for the private connection address;

opening a voice communication port of the voice firewall to provide communications between the user endpoint and the provider endpoint; and sending the modified connection signal to the user endpoint.

11. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A voice firewall comprising:

a command input port;

a command output port;

a processor electrically connected to the command input port and the command output port, wherein the processor is configured to receive a connection signal through the command input port, wherein the processor is further configured to substitute a public connection address of the voice firewall for a private connection address of a provider endpoint embedded within a data portion of the connection signal thereby hiding the private connection address, wherein the voice firewall is adapted to authenticate a user endpoint located behind a data firewall and that is provided a challenge-response with a soft switch, and wherein the user endpoint is addressed in the connection signal; and

a voice communication port electrically connected to the processor, wherein the voice communication port is associated with the private connection address on a private side of the voice firewall and is associated with the public connection address on a public side of the voice firewall.

18. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium comprising:

instructions for receiving, by a voice firewall, a connection signal from a provider endpoint at a provider location;

instructions for substituting a public connection address for a private connection address embedded within a data portion of the connection signal, wherein the voice firewall provides authentication for the a user endpoint that is provided a challenge-response by a soft switch and said soft switch maintains a command session with the user endpoint when the user endpoint is authenticated by the voice firewall; and

instructions for sending the modified connection signal to [[a]] user endpoint at a user location behind a data firewall, wherein the user endpoint comprises a voice over Internet Protocol device.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of providing voice communication between two endpoints including an endpoint located behind a data firewall over a digital network, the method comprising the steps of:

providing, by a soft switch, a challenge-response to the endpoint;

receiving, by a voice firewall, a Connect command that includes a private connection

address of a provider endpoint embedded in a data portion of the Connect command, wherein the voice firewall is adapted to authenticate the end point;

modifying, by the voice firewall, the Connect command to substitute a public connection address of the voice firewall for the private connection address thereby bidding the private connection address; and

sending the modified Connect command to [[one of]] the endpoint.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-10, 12-17, 19-22, and 24-26 are allowed.

Claims 1, 8, 20, and 26: Prior art of record neither alone nor in combination teach a method/medium of providing voice communication between two endpoints including an endpoint located behind a data firewall over a digital network, the method comprising receiving, by a voice firewall, a Connect command that includes a private connection address of a provider endpoint, embedded in a data portion of the Connect command, wherein the voice firewall is adapted to authenticate the end point and said authentication is a challenge-response authentication; modifying, by the voice firewall, the Connect command to substitute a public connection address of the voice firewall for the private connection address thereby bidding the private connection address; and sending the modified Connect command to the endpoint.

Claim 14: Prior art of record neither alone nor in combination teach a voice firewall comprising a command input port; a command output port; a processor electrically connected to the command

Art Unit: 2136

input port and the command output port, wherein the processor is configured to receive a connection signal through the command input port, wherein the processor is further configured to substitute a public connection address of the voice firewall for a private connection address of a provider endpoint embedded within a data portion of the connection signal thereby hiding the private connection address, wherein the voice firewall is adapted to authenticate a user endpoint located behind a data firewall and said authentication is a challenge-response authentication, and wherein the user endpoint is addressed in the connection signal; and a voice communication port electrically connected to the processor, wherein the voice communication port is associated with the private connection address on a private side of the voice firewall and is associated with the public connection address on a public side of the voice firewall.

Claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15-17, 19, 21-22, and 24-25 are allowed because of dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. **USPN 6,697,377 B1** Ju et al. a VOIP firewall network address translation.

Art Unit: 2136

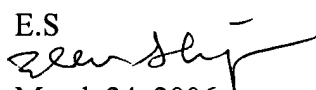
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eleni A. Shiferaw whose telephone number is 571-272-3867. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CHRISTOPHER REVAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

E.S.


March 24, 2006

